



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-713-2503 Fax: 860-713-2516
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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Commissioner F. Philip Prelli
Connecticut Department of Agriculture
860-713-2514

Connecticut Department of Agriculture Seizes Neglected Animals

Hartford, CT/September 28, 2006 – As a result of an on-going investigation into animal neglect, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, working with local officials, executed a search and seizure warrant on September 28, 2006, at 142 Colebrook River Rd. in Winchester, CT. The warrant alleges that Moriah Hill, the owner of five horses and one goat, was not providing proper care.

The Department of Agriculture initiated the investigation on September 15, 2006, in response to a complaint from the Winchester Animal Control Officer who had observed that the animals were not being provided with proper feed and water, and, as a result, were progressively losing weight. Hill does not own the property at which the horses and the goat were being kept.

According to F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, "Three adult horses, two foals, and the goat had to be removed from Hill's care because of their deteriorating condition. If the animals remained, their condition could have quickly become life-threatening.

"We wish to thank the local municipal animal control officers and the local police for their assistance," Commissioner Prelli added. "Their efforts and cooperation throughout the process are very much appreciated."

The animals are being housed and rehabilitated at the Department's large animal rescue facility located within the Gates Correctional Institution in Niantic, CT. The rescue facility is a joint venture of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Corrections for the purpose of caring for horses and other farm animals seized as a result of animal neglect and cruelty.

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